

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Greeting the People (words similar to this)

Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in Christ's Resurrection and life.

Blessing of palms (extend hands)

Let us pray, Almighty ever-living God, sanctify + these branches with your blessing, that we, who follow Christ the Ruler in exultation, may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

or

Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you, that we, who today hold high these branches to hail Christ in triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in Christ. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Sprinkling of the branches

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, and said to them,

"Go into the village opposite you; and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'"

So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street; and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and the bystanders permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

"Hosanna! Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God!
Blessed is the reign of our father David that is to come!
Hosanna in the highest!"

The Good News of Salvation.

Gathering/Procession: Hosanna to the Son of David (Schutte) ... BB142

Hosanna to the Son of David!

O blest is he, O blest is he who come in the name of the Lord

1. Rejoice, daughter of Zion,
in the One who brings joy!

Sing praise, children of Judah for the Lord is close at hand

2. Rejoice, all who are thirsting
for streams of living joy!

Sing praise, children of Judah, for the Lord is close at hand

3 Rejoice, all who are longing
to behold the face of God

Sing praise, children of Judah for the Lord is close at hand

4. Rejoice, all who are searching
for the truth of holy light

Sing praise, children of Judah for the Lord is close at hand

5. Rejoice, all who are hoping
for the reign of peace and love

Sing praise, children of Judah for the Lord is close at hand.

6. Rejoice, all who are waiting
for the dawn of heaven's light

Sing praise, children of Judah for the Lord is close at hand.

First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Most High God has given me a well-trained tongue,

that I may know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning God opens my ear that I may hear,
And I have not rebelled,
Have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
My cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.
For God is my help,
Therefore, I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of God

Responsorial: My God, My God (Haugen) ... G28

Refrain: My God, My God, O why have you abandoned me?

Vs. 1: All who see me laugh at me,
They mock me and they shake their heads:
“He relied on the Lord, let the Lord be his refuge.”

Vs. 2: As dogs around me, they circle me about.
Wounded me and pierced me, I can number all my bones.

Vs. 3: My clothing they divide, for my garments casting lots,
O Lord, do not desert me, but hasten to my aid.

Vs. 4: I will praise you to my people, and proclaim you in their midst,
O fear the Lord, my people, give glory to God’s name.

Second Reading

A reading from Paul to the people of Philippi

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,

coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
He humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
 Jesus Christ is Lord
 to the glory of God, most holy.

The word of God

Gospel Acclamation: Lenten Gospel Acclamation (Canedo & Hurd) ... BB901

Praise and honor to you, O Lord Jesus Christ

“Jesus became obedient to death; even death on a cross.
Jesus gave his life for you; glory in the cross.”

The Passion of the Lord, According to Mark

Narrator: The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to take place in two days' time. So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to arrest Jesus by treachery and put him to death. They said:

Voice: Not during the festival, for fear that there may be a riot among the people.

Narrator: When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. There were some who were indignant.

Voice: Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages and the money given to the poor?

Narrator: They were infuriated with her. Jesus said,

Jesus: Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them,

but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Mary of Nazareth: When I heard my Son say "anointing my body for burial," my heart was filled with fear. I longed to get Him aside and to ask Him what exactly He meant. Of course, the events of that week happened so fast. I never had a second to even speak with Him. My mind kept going back to that time at the wedding feast in Cana when He told me that this was not His appointed time to perform miracles. I was so sure then and He so trusted me, that He gave in. Now He was so sure, but of what? I kept hoping He meant His time to run and hide...but my heart knew, somehow, that my greatest fear for Him was coming true.

Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them. When they heard Judas they were pleased and promised to pay him money. Then he looked for an opportunity to hand Jesus over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him,

Voice: Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?

Narrator: He sent two of his disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.

Narrator: The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he came with the Twelve. As they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Narrator: They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one,

Voice: Surely it is not I?

Jesus: One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish. For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to him by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for him if he had never been born.

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: Take it; this is my body.

Narrator: Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them,

Jesus: This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mary of Magdala: I can still hear the men singing as they left. Many of us were there cleaning up after the meal, but we were unusually quiet. When I noticed that Judas had left, I wondered why, and worried about it. Maybe I should have left, too, and confronted Judas. Maybe Jesus would still be alive if I had intervened, if I had just done something. I had begged Jesus not to go to Jerusalem for the feast. He looked at me hard then, and said: "Mary, I can't hang on - I have to go - I have to do what I have to do..."

Narrator: Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed. But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Voice: Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be.

Jesus: Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times."

Narrator: But Peter vehemently replied,

Voice: Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: And they all spoke similarly. Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. Then he said to them,

Jesus: My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch.

Narrator: He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him;

Jesus: Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.

Narrator: When Jesus returned he found them asleep.

Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

Narrator: Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a third time and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Martha: That's how honest Jesus was with His best friends — we all needed to take Him more seriously. Now, of course, we can all see clearly how we let Him down, each in our own way. How filled we were with guilt afterwards, especially Peter.

Narrator: Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying,

Voice: The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely.

Narrator: He came and immediately went over to him and said,

Voice: Rabbi.

Narrator: And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus said to them in reply,

Jesus: Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me?

Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled.

Narrator: And they all left him and fled. Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.

They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest's courtyard and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging,

Voice: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'"

Narrator: Even so their testimony did not agree. The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying,

Voice: Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?

Narrator: But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him and said to him,

Voice: Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?

Jesus: I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'

Narrator: At that the high priest tore his garments and said,

Voice: What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?

Narrator: They all condemned him as deserving to die. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him,

Crowd: Prophesy!

Narrator: And the guards greeted him with blows.

Mary of Bethany: How could the crowd turn on Him? We who had sat and listened day after day and studied every word out of His mouth? He made us understand the Torah, and brought it to life! But, most important, we knew Him, Martha and Lazarus and I, and saw how He

showed by His example how to treat everyone with compassion — especially the unacceptables. He lived the Word of God. To see Him so mistreated now is unbearable.

Narrator: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's maids came along. Seeing Peter warming himself, she looked intently at him and said,

Voice 2: You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus.

Narrator: But he denied it saying,

Voice: I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.

Narrator: So he went out into the outer court. Then the cock crowed. The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders,

Voice 2: This man is one of them.

Narrator: Once again he denied it. A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more,

Voice 2: Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean.

Narrator: He began to curse and to swear,

Voice: I do not know this man about whom you are talking.

Narrator: And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept.

Samaritan woman: I remember when I first heard Peter tell of his three denials - and he wept every time he spoke of them. Of course, I wasn't anywhere near when this all happened - I didn't dare to go near Jerusalem, being a Samaritan. But I remembered Peter from that day I gave Jesus water at the well - One of the most shocked that He engaged in conversation with me. I wish I had been there. Jesus! No one could help Him now.

Narrator: As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.

Voice A: He is clever with his words and astounding with his miracles. If he speaks to them tomorrow who knows what will happen with the crowds?

Voice B: We must silence him, quiet him, stop this would be king, for his slander and his treason.

Voice C: If his movement catches on he could soon undo us. With a gesture and a lie, he could turn the mob against us.

Voice A: It is clear that we must act while these passions are still brewing. We must stop him now for the good of all the people.

Voice B: If we silence him, quiet him, they'll never question us as to why.

Voice C: We must think for all the people while the tensions are running so high.

Voices ABC: So we must silence him, quiet him, before they question us.

Voice A: For the good of all the people, I'm afraid that he must die.

Narrator: They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him,

Voice: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him,

Voice: Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.

Narrator: Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Woman Cured of Hemorrhage: Jesus could have told them about me! He cured me of bleeding, set me free! Not to give glory to Himself - in fact, Jesus was amazed when God's healing power rushed through Him. But it would have been no use — there was no way we who had been healed in body and spirit could get to Pilate - we were nobodies. They had all the power they needed to twist the truth and let their fury and jealousy out on the best Man who ever lived. He went about only doing good — How could they prosecute Him for that?

Narrator: Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered,

Voice: Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

Narrator: For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply,

Voice: Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?"

Crowd: Crucify him.

Voice: Why? What evil has he done?

Crowd: Crucify him.

Narrator: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with,

Crowd: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: They kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Veronica: It was when the soldiers were arguing with Simon that I had my chance to break through the crowd and to do the only thing I could think of — to wipe the spit and blood off Jesus' face. Of course, as soon as they saw me, they pushed me back into the crowd. I don't even know if Jesus could see me or know who I was, there was so much yelling and chaos. But I had to do something! It was so impossible to believe that they would execute as a public criminal this Man who had only loved us so dearly and showed us how to love each other!

Narrator: They brought him to the place of Golgotha — which is translated Place of the Skull — They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross.

Narrator: Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said,

Crowd: He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel,

come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.

Narrator: Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: which is translated,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator: Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

Crowd: Look, he is calling Elijah.

Narrator: One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed
and gave it to him to drink saying,

Voice: Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.

Narrator: Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood
facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

Voice: Truly this man was the Son of God!

Mary Magdalen: There were many more women there, not only we, looking on from a
distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him. Among them were another
Mary, mother of James and Joseph, and the mothers of the sons of Zebedee. We did our best
to comfort Jesus' mother and to hold each other up. When it was evening, a rich man from
Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for the
body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, after His mother
held Him for a long time, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he
had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and
departed. Two of us remained sitting there, facing the tomb, bereft with grief.

Narrator: The Good News of Salvation.

Homily

Universal Intercessions

Response: God of the poor, hear our prayer...

(God of the poor, hear our prayer...)

For the church: that we may have the courage to embrace God's will and trust God's providence even when we experience suffering and rejection, let us pray...

For all who must bear the cross each day, particularly, parents of sick children, those persecuted for their faith and those with serious illnesses: that God's presence and strength will sustain them through the challenge of each day, let us pray...

For leaders of government and business: that in Jesus, they may recognize how to be servant leaders and give priority to the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray...

For peace in the world and an end to violence, particularly in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East and Ukraine: that the death of Christ may turn all hearts from violence and give them courage to seek new ways to resolve conflicts, let us pray...

And for what else shall we pray?...

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts

Offertory: Jesus, the Lord (O'Connor SJ) ...BB414

Refrain: Jesus, Jesus

Let all creation bend the knee to the Lord.

1. In Him we live, we move and have our being;
In Him the Christ, In Him the King!
Jesus the Lord.

2. Though Son, He did not cling to Godliness,
But emptied Himself, became a slave!
Jesus the Lord.

3. He lived obediently His Father's will
Accepting His death, death on a cross!
Jesus the Lord.

~~~~~  
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer *(if you are watching the video or listening to the audio, please follow along and participate with Fr. Jack; and continue with the Communion Songs below.)*

**Holy: Mass of Christ the Savior (Schutte) ... BB918**

**Mem: Kauffman Renewal-Save Us Savior (Gokelman & Kauffman) ... H/O**

**Amen: Christ the Savior (Schutte) ... BB922**

**Lamb: Lamb of God (Maher, Le, Ndolo) ... H/O**

**Communion 1: Life-Giving Bread, Saving Cup (Chepponis) ... G591**

Refrain:

Life-giving bread, saving cup, we offer in Thanksgiving, O God.

Life-giving bread saving cup, we offer a sign of our love.

Vs. 1: For bread that is broken, we give thanks.

For wine that is poured, we give praise.

For life and for knowledge of the kingdom,

All praise to you until the end of time!

Vs. 2: We thank you, O Father, for your name

Which you give to dwell in our hearts.

You bring us together as one family:

All praise to you until the end of time!

Vs. 3: Creator of all, we offer thanks.

You give us a share in your life.  
You strengthen our body and our spirit:  
All praise to you until the end of time!

Vs. 4: Remember your Church which sings you praise.  
Perfect it in truth and in love.  
And gather your people all together  
To praise you until the end of time!

### **Communion 2: Jerusalem, My Destiny (Cooney) ... G284**

Refrain: I have fixed my eyes on your hills,  
Jerusalem, my destiny!  
Though I cannot see the end for me,  
I cannot turn away,  
We have set our hearts for the way;  
this journey is our destiny.  
Let no one walk alone.  
The journey makes us one.

Vs. 1: Other spirits, lesser gods,  
have courted me with lies.  
Here among you I have found  
a truth which bids me rise.

Vs. 2: See, I leave the past behind  
A new land calls to me  
Here among you now I find  
A glimpse of what might be.

Vs. 3: In my thirst you let me drink  
The waters of your life  
Here among you I have met  
The Savior, Jesus Christ.

Vs. 4: All the worlds I have not seen  
you open to my view.  
Here among you I have found  
a vision, bright and new.

Vs. 5: To the tombs I went to mourn  
the hope I thought was gone.  
Here among you I awoke

to unexpected dawn.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Announcements**

**Go in peace,  
Thanks be to God.**

**Sending : Jesus, Remember Me (Taize) ... G293**

Jesus Remember Me when you come into your Kingdom  
Jesus Remember Me when you come into your Kingdom.....